

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (*Currently Amended*) A groundwater well sample device, comprising:

 a sample tube, the sample tube being an elongated hollow cylinder, the sample tube having an open top end and a closed bottom end adapted for containing a groundwater sample, the tube further having:

 a knothole defined therein adjacent to the top end;

 a string-retaining slot defined therein extending from the knothole towards the top end, the string-retaining slot having a knothole end and a terminal end; and

 a stress-reducing aperture defined therein, the stress-reducing aperture adjoining said terminal end of said string-retaining slot[.];

wherein the top end of said tube is angled, and the tube being open opposite the knothole, whereby a knotted end of a string may be passed through the knothole without passing into the cylinder defined by the tube.

Claim 2. (*Canceled*)

Claim 3. (*Currently Amended*) [[The]] A groundwater well sample device ~~according to~~ ~~claim 1, comprising:~~

a sample tube, the sample tube being an elongated hollow cylinder, the sample tube having an open top end and a closed bottom end adapted for containing a groundwater sample, the tube further having:

a knothole defined therein adjacent to the top end;

a string-retaining slot defined therein extending from the knothole towards the top end, the string-retaining slot having a knothole end and a terminal end;

a stress-reducing aperture defined therein, the stress-reducing aperture adjoining said terminal end of said string-retaining slot; and

wherein the string-retaining slot has a chamfer formed in the knothole end.

Claim 4. (*Original*) The groundwater well sample device according to claim 1, wherein said slot is zigzagged.

Claim 5. (*Original*) The groundwater well sample device according to claim 1, further comprising a retaining means for retaining a fluid within said sample tube, the retaining means being disposed on said bottom end of said sample tube.

Claim 6. (*Original*) The groundwater well sample device according to claim 1, further comprising an admitting and retaining means for admitting a fluid sample into and retaining the fluid sample within said sample tube, the admitting and retaining means disposed on said bottom end of said sample tube.